

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01

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R 290846Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 140

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0115

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR NU QA

SUBJECT : QATARI QUERIES ON MASIRAH ISLAND FACILITIES AND
QABOOS VISIT

REF: STATE 016451

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON JAN 28, SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF QATARI ARMED FORCES, AND ISSA AL KAWARI, AMIR'S CHEF DE CABINET, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, ASKED ME ABOUT REPORTS OF US REQUEST FOR FACILITIES ON MASIRAH ISLAND AND QABOOS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON. USING REFTTEL, I BRIEFED THE TWO GOQ OFFICIALS.

2. SHAYKH HAMAD CRITICIZED OMANI USE OF "FOREIGNERS" IN FIGHTING DHOFAR REBELS, AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IRANIANS IN THIS CONNECTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT QABOOS' VAIN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ARAB ASSISTANCE HAD COMPELLED HIM TO TURN TO IRAN, AND HE FAULTED SAUDIS FOR THEIR LACK OF RESPONSE. HAMAD REMARKED THAT DHOFARIS WERE A VERY TOUGH LOT AND HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT
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IRANIAN FORCES LACKED SPIRIT AND WERE DOING BADLY. HE SAID

THEIR POOR PERFORMANCE UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE "THEY NOT FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN COUNTRY," AND COMPARED THEM WITH THOSE US SOLDIERS WHO LACKED MOTIVATION IN VIETNAM CONFLICT.

3. KAWARI SAID HE HAD JUST BECOME AWARE OF THE "LOUD NOISES" FROM THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS, ON THE SUBJECT OF MASIRAH. HE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES ON BRIEFING RE MASIRAH AND QABOOS VISIT. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD PASS IMMEDIATELY TO AMIR, AND REMARKED IT PARTICULARLY TIMELY SINCE GOQ AMBASSADOR TO OMAN WOULD BE REPORTING TO AMIR LATER SAME DAY.

4. LOCAL MEDIA TREATMENT OF US REQUEST FOR MASIRAH FACILITIES HAS BEEN IN FORM OF REPLY OF STORIES FROM INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ARAB PRESS. OMANI EMBASSY HERE HAS CIRCULATED TO PRESS AND EMBASSIES OMAN GOVERNMENT DENIAL CONCERNING "RUMORS" OF US ACQUISITION OF RIGHTS TO USE MASIRAH ISLAND. JORDANIAN AMB POINTED OUT TO ME THAT OMANI STATEMENT CONTRADICTED BY DEPT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS. I REPLIED DEPT'S STATEMENT BASIS FOR OUR GUIDANCE ON SUBJECT.
PAGANELLI

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